

Clete Boykin, is a native of Manning, in South Carolina's 6th Congressional District. She is a member of the distinguished De Laine family, who initiated the activities in Clarendon County, South Carolina that led to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case that desegregated public schools. She continues to uphold that legacy with her work today.

Clete grew up in Lancaster, South Carolina, and graduated *summa cum laude* from Lancaster High School. She matriculated at Clemson University, which shaped the future trajectory of her life. Clete lived on the fourth floor of Benet Hall, and made lifelong friends known as the "Benet Babes," who won the 1978 Women's Intramural Flag Football Championship. She still sees the group every summer, and, in 2015, the Benet Babes established a scholarship fund to give deserving students the opportunity to attend Clemson.

At Clemson, Clete distinguished herself as one of the first African American members of the Tiger Band, and still proudly wears her Tiger Band jacket in cold Washington winters. She graduated from Clemson with honors and received a Bachelor of Science degree in plant sciences.

Clete continued to break ground by joining E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company as the first African American woman to work as a sales and marketing representative in the company's Agricultural Chemicals business. Clete rose to manage du Pont's \$ 1.5 million plant nursery business in Florida. The company then tapped her to join the company's government affairs office in Washington, D.C. There she managed a variety of policy issues including agriculture, transportation, environmental, trade secrets and defense matters related to the Kevlar® paraaramid synthetic fiber used in protective vests and helmets.

In 1989, Clete earned a Master of Arts in International Relations from American University in Washington. She attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Citizens Academy as a member of its Class of 2011, and received the Washington Government Relations Group's Reginald "Reg" Gilliam Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014 for her excellence as a government relations professional.

She retired from DuPont in 2015 after 29 years of service, and started her own government consulting firm, CDB ProjX. She is often seen on Capitol Hill as part of Clemson's governmental affairs organization working to build relationships with federal officials and promoting her beloved alma mater.

Her work with Clemson also extends to volunteer roles. Clete has held many voluntary-leadership positions, including serving as a former member of both the University's Board of Visitors and the Clemson University Foundation Board of Directors. Currently, she chairs the Clemson Institute for Parks Board of Advisors. She is a member of the Clemson University Tiger Band Association and a long-time board member of the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. Clemson Club.

She has helped organize various Clemson events in the Washington area, including 2017's Clemson Day at the White House honoring the University's national championship football team. She also helps students of color in the D.C. area who are interested in attending Clemson by connecting them with campus contacts or facilitating campus tours.

In addition to her work with Clemson, Clete serves on the boards of the Washington Gov-

ernment Relations Group Foundation and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network Leadership Council. She volunteers for McKenna's Wagon, a mobile food service that feeds people in need throughout the D.C. area, and she has bicycled hundreds of miles to raise money for AIDS charities and to support the fight against multiple sclerosis.

She is a member of the board of the South Carolina Business Council and is vice chairman of the board of directors of the Briggs, De Laine, Pearson Foundation, which focuses on providing free after-school and summer tutoring for individuals from low-income backgrounds in Clarendon County, South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in congratulating Clete Boykin on her well-deserved recognition by the Clemson Alumni Association. I can think of no greater champion of their alma mater, and no one more effective or dedicated to her work than Clete. She makes Clemson University and her home state of South Carolina very proud.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF J. ALLEN MARTIN

#### HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize J. Allen Martin for his outstanding service to our state.

Allen has selflessly served the state of South Carolina and Clemson University for decades. He graduated from Clemson in 1969 and has since served on several University Boards and Committees. For example, Allen has served on the Baltimore/DC Clemson Club Board of Directors as a leader, host, and volunteer for many years and currently serves on the Clemson University Foundation Board.

In addition to his community involvement, Allen is the Managing Partner of The Livingston Group. Allen was previously the Chief of Staff to Congressman Bob Livingston (R-LA) throughout Mr. Livingston's congressional career. In 1999, he co-founded The Livingston Group, together with the Congressman and other former staff members. Allen is well respected for his in-depth knowledge of the government decision-making process and has been involved with numerous successful political activities and elections throughout the United States.

Allen is a valued, dependable, and humble community leader. He has exceeded expectations in public service, highlighted by his receipt of numerous honors and accolades. For example, Allen recently received the Clemson Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the Association can bestow upon an alumnus or alumna. The Distinguished Service Award is given to alumni who have not only dedicated their life to professionalism and public service, but who have also continued a lifelong dedication to Clemson University.

On behalf of the 5th District of South Carolina, it is my most sincere pleasure to recognize Allen for his outstanding leadership and public service. I wish him the best of luck throughout his future endeavors, as I am confident he will continue to serve and find great success in all that he does.

#### RECOGNIZING BILL BURTON FOR HIS SERVICE

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bill Burton for his many years of service as a community advocate and for his role as the Area Director for the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club.

A Rainier Vista native, Bill is an experienced and accomplished community leader. He has served as the Area Director of the Boys & Girls Club since 1980, working tirelessly throughout his life to empower local youth. As Area Director, Bill was a driving force behind fundraising efforts that galvanized the Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club. He turned what was once an underdeveloped club into a thriving community center that provides Rainier Vista children a safe place to grow and learn.

Today, the Rainier Vista Club serves over 100 of the neighborhood's youth through programs and mentorship to create positive change in their community. These achievements would not have been possible without Bill's passion and dedication for giving young people opportunities to become outstanding members of their community.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize Bill for his outstanding achievements and contributions to our community throughout his career.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDY KRAUSE, FORMER WINNEBAGO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judy Krause, former Winnebago High School girls' basketball head coach, for retiring with a historic and successful career.

Coach Krause began her career as head coach with the Winnebago girls' basketball team 33 years ago. Krause's impressive career comes to an end with 18 regional titles, four sectional championships, three super-sectional titles, a third-place state finish in 1992, and a runner-up finish in 2022. In total, she's accumulated 598 wins and 332 losses as head coach. Speaking to her success, Coach Krause was inducted into the IBCA Hall of Fame in 2017 and was recently named the IBCA Coach of the Year for Class 2A for the seventh time in a row. She was also nominated for overall coach of the year.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Winnebago High School girls' basketball head coach, Judy Krause, for her 33 years coaching the Winnebago High School girls' basketball team and congratulate her on her retirement after a highly successful career.

EXPRESSING CONCERN WITH U.S.  
FOREIGN POLICY FAILURE TO-  
WARDS THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

**HON. PAUL A. GOSAR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 30, 2022*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the massive U.S. failure under the Biden Administration in allowing the Solomon Islands to align with China. The Solomon Islands' shift towards Beijing was not out of the blue as it is the product of a several year effort. Further, the Solomon Islands contains the blood of over 10,000 U.S. Marines who died retaking it from the Japanese, including the infamous battle at Guadalcanal. Thousands of others were maimed and wounded. What our grandfathers paid for in blood, the Chinese have bought with money. This is a national disgrace and we were entirely unprepared for such a significant development in the Pacific Ocean.

This strategic shift truly began in September of 2019 when Prime Minister Sogavare announced the Solomon Islands was switching its 36 year diplomatic ties from Taiwan to China. With no embassy in the country, the U.S. response was limited however the then Trump Administration offered an aid package to the island of Malaita, the nation's largest province, which is openly out spoken against the diplomatic change.

Shortly after the cessation of the failed Afghanistan withdrawal, China increased its meddling in the Solomon Islands. When the people of Malaita were refused an audience before Prime Minister Sogavare violent riots broke out across the capital. While U.S. allies responded at first, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) soon filled the gap with their own police and police gear.

To any international observer the CCP strategy is clear. Shift allegiances, make the Solomon Islands politically and economically dependent on Beijing through Belt and Road Initiative investment and projects, and make the Solomon Islands' government security based on CCP personnel and equipment. Yet there is no action from the Biden Administration. Finally, in February 2020, three years after the Solomon Island's shift from Taiwan, the Biden Administration announced its Indo-Pacific Strategy and Secretary Blinken states that the U.S. will reopen an embassy. This is much too late.

Just last week, Solomon Island officials confirm that a police deal has been signed with China and that a larger security deal is in the finalization phase. The deal grants Chinese police and security the right to assist the security of the island and to protect Chinese personnel and projects there. It would, most concerningly, allow People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy ships to carry out logistical stops at the island, which likely opens the door to a PLA naval base on the Solomon Island, 1,400 miles from our ally Australia and extending the CCP's military reach and influence towards the U.S. and its allies.

We are watching the CCP's soft and hard power operate in real time, blending its growing economic, political, and military might to slowly take control of a country, creeping closer to becoming a regional hegemon in an ocean the U.S. shares a border with and did

\$1.75 trillion in two way trade and whose economy accounts for 60 percent of the global GDP.

The reality is that Biden Administration has been wrong or too slow on every major foreign policy issue since taking office. The failure of this Administration with the Solomon Islands proves it cannot walk and chew gum at the same time, distracted by its failed withdrawal operation in Afghanistan, paralyzed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, distracted with re-entering into a diplomatic deal which makes concessions with the world's state sponsor of terrorism, or too focused on entering into abstract climate and tax deals with foreign nations and international organizations.

For decades, the American people were told by our governing and economic elites that the People's Republic of China under the CCP was not a threat. That it would develop and align with the West. Yet, we have watched China pursue hegemonic dominance in the Indo-Pacific, using this regional security to project power globally in a manner which threatens American economic, political, and national security. But all we get from the Biden Administration is strategy documents and diplomatic action which is far too late as Beijing eyes 2049 and the end of its 100 year marathon.

Madam Speaker, I recount this series of concerning events not to advocate for U.S. intervention. I highlight these developments to show how the Biden Administration has been completely unable or unwilling to use the wide range of America's tools of statecraft to address a real security threat, growing Chinese power and influence. Instead it is off pursuing highly political and abstract foreign policy goals which do much less for the security of the American people, homeland, and way of life. The ease at which the CCP has obtained complete influence over another nation in a strategically important region of the world highlights its growing power and how this Congress and Administration needs to get serious about its foreign policy responsibilities.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE NEW YORK STATE MILITARY MUSEUM'S VIETNAM WAR VETERANS COMMEMORATION

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 30, 2022*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum's Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration, honoring all the men and women who served our Nation during the Vietnam War.

The Friends of the New York State Military Museum is a nonprofit organization that assists the museum in telling the story of America's military. For fifty years, this organization has held commemoration ceremonies to honor the Vietnam War veterans who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975. They graciously award lapel pins that celebrate the brave sacrifices of the servicemen and women who spent time on active duty in both training and combat. For far too long, our Vietnam veterans have gone unheralded for

their immense bravery during this crucial time in our nation's history. They returned home injured and scarred by the horrors of war yet did not receive the gratitude of their fellow citizens.

The New York State Military Museum began their mission to preserve and interpret history in 1863. With the help of the Friends of the New York State Military Museum, they have been able to tell countless stories of our brave men and women in uniform. Acting as docents, retail associates, and research library volunteers, the Friends of the New York State Military Museum finds numerous ways to support museum operations daily. The museum holds over ten thousand artifacts and boasts impressive research and education programs. With their assistance, this museum has been able to effectively honor all those that sacrificed their lives to protect democracy both at home and abroad.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate the Friends of the New York State Military Museum on their fifty years of loyal service to our veterans of the Vietnam War. And I want to thank the many North Country residents that selflessly dedicated their lives to our Nation's armed services.

IN RECOGNITION OF JORDAN WILSON'S SERVICE TO VIRGINIA'S FIRST DISTRICT

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 30, 2022*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Jordan Wilson and his service to my office, Virginia's First District, and the Nation.

Jordan joined my office in September 2016 and has diligently worked his way up from an intern to Director of Operations, striving for excellence in every task along the way. As Staff Assistant, Jordan improved our constituent services program; as Legislative Correspondent, he reformed our letter writing process; and finally, as Director of Operations, he developed processes to streamline my office's operations and worked to pursue my priorities coordinating and creating a schedule to maximize my time.

Jordan has gone above and beyond to contribute to additional duties outside of my office as well. He has taught over 330 Hill staff through the Congressional Staff Academy's Superior Scheduling training and has become a singular hub for questions, concerns, and assistance for schedulers across the House and Senate. Further, Jordan served on the Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in 2020–2021, where he served a crucial role in setting up COVID testing operations to ensure our Nation's leaders were safe, ultimately contributing to the success of Inauguration Day.

I would like to thank Jordan for his contributions over the last 6.5 years. He has been a key member of my staff in every role he has taken up and contributed to the positive office culture that my office strives for. I wish Jordan the best as he continues his journey in public service as the Director of Member Services for the Committee on House Administration.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Jordan Wilson for his dedication to